

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 BIB-01 IO-13 /074 W

-----011901Z 025586 /50

R 011540Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8120

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 7720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, IT, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE: ITALIAN-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW, MAY 27

SUMMARY: ITALIAN POL COUNS MIGLIORINI MAY 31 GAVE EMBOFF
DETAILED BRIEFING OF SOVIET-ITALIAN CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW
MAY 27 ON CSCE BETWEEN SOVIET CSCE CHIEF VORONTSOV AND
ITALIAN CSCE DESK OFFICERS IN MFA. TALKS WERE BRIEF, NOT VERY
PROFOUND, BUT CONTAINED SOME INTERESTING POINTS. MENDELEVICH
APPEARS OUT OF CSCE. SOVIETS INSIST ON FIXING CLOSING DATE FOR
BELGRADE II AT BELGRADE I AND MAY ACCEPT UP TO A THREE MONTH LONG
BELGRADE II. IF BELGRADE II GOES WELL, SOVIETS HINTED THAT THEY
COULD ENVISAGE A FOLLOW-UP MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONSULTATIONS WERE LIMITED TO ONE THREE-HOUR

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MEETING MAY 27 AND SUBSEQUENT LUNCHEON DISCUSSIONS
(AFTERNOON SESSION WAS PREEMPTED BY NEW AMBASSADOR'S
CREDENTIALS CEREMONY). MIGLIORINI, WHO ATTENDED BOTH,
SAID SOVIETS WERE NOT FORTHCOMING CONCERNING THEIR
POSITIONS ON MOST SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF BELGRADE II
ALTHOUGH THEY WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS BELGRADE I
MODALITIES. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST.

2. SOVIET ATTITUDE: VORONTSOV WAS NEITHER DEFENSIVE NOR BELLIGERENT ABOUT BELGRADE. HIS OPENING REMARKS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE WP FONMIN COMMUNIQUE WHICH APPEARED IN MAY 27 PRESS (MOSCOW 7561). THROUGHOUT THE MEETING HE PLACED STRESS IN THE STANDARD SOVIET WAY ON NEED FOR "CONSTRUCTIVE" AND "POSITIVE" ATMOSPHERE IN BELGRADE AND CONSISTENTLY REFERRED TO "EXCHANGES OF OPINIONS" WHEN DISCUSSING WHAT WOULD BE DONE AT BELGRADE. HE CLAIMED THAT AFTER TWO YEARS IMPLEMENTATION HAS JUST BEGUN AND BELGRADE SHOULD NOT FOCUS ON THAT WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE. THE FINAL ACT HAS "LIFE" OF TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS, HE SAID, AND ALL CANNOT BE DONE IMMEDIATELY. HE ALSO SPOKE OF "A POLITICAL CONCEPTION" (NOT, ACCORDING TO MIGLIORINI, "CONDITIONS") CONCERNING BELGRADE WHICH MUST BE TO ESTABLISH A "CONSTRUCTIVE" APPROACH TO THE MEETINGS. HE HINTED ALSO THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP TO THE BELGRADE MEETINGS. MIGLIORINI SAID VORONTSOV WAS NOT MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT EITHER THE "CONCEPT" OR ABOUT THE "FOLLOW-UP", BUT THOUGHT HE WAS HINTING THAT IF BELGRADE WENT WELL THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT OPPOSE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.

3. MODALITIES: VORONTSOV CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD HEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO BELGRADE I AND THAT AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH WOULD NOT BE ATTENDING JUNE MEETINGS. SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO VORONTSOV, WOULD "INSIST" THAT

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JUNE SESSION FIX AN OPENING AND A CLOSING DATE FOR BELGRADE II, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SUGGEST SPECIFIC DATES. HE DID SAY HE THOUGHT SOVIETS COULD, IF NECESSARY, AGREE TO AN AUTUMN SESSION OF THREE MONTHS OR LESS AND ARGUED THAT AN EVEN SHORTER SESSION WITH A FIXED CLOSING DATE WOULD ASSIST IN FOCUSING DISCUSSIONS ON MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES. HE DREW AN ANALOGY WITH THE UNGA. HE THOUGHT BELGRADE II SHOULD CONSIST PRIMARILY OF PLENARY SESSIONS WITH COMMITTEE WORK LIMITED TO THE ELABORATION OF SPECIFIC TEXTS WHICH THE PLENARY MIGHT DIRECT TO BE DRAFTED. THIS WOULD FOLLOW, HE SAID, THE PRECEDENT SET IN GENEVA. NONE OF THE "EXCHANGES OF OPINIONS" COULD TAKE PLACE IN COMMITTEES, HE ARGUED.

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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4. ETE AND NON-FIRST USE: THE SOVIETS DID NOT RAISE
EITHER OF THE WARSAW PACT'S PCC PROPOSALS (NUCLEAR
NON-FIRST USE OR NO-NEW PACT MEMBERS) WITH THE ITALIANS.
THEY ONLY MENTIONED THE ETE CONFERENCES AT THE LUNCH,
STATING THAT THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE ECE
HANDLING OF THE ISSUE AND THAT THEY WOULD "PROBABLY"
RAISE IT IN BELGRADE. NO OTHER SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA
ISSUES WERE RAISED BY EITHER SIDE IN THE CONSULTATIONS.
BASKET III ITEMS WERE NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED
AND THE SOVIETS DID NOT REFER TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS
QUESTION.

5. COMMENT: ON MODALITIES WE FIND IT NOTEWORTHY THAT
THE SOVIETS NOW ARE TALKING ABOUT UP TO THREE MONTHS FOR BELGRADE
II. IT WAS NOT SO VERY LONG AGO THAT THEY BALKED AT
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ONE MONTH TO SIX WEEKS, AND THE LONGEST THEY HAVE
BEEN WILLING TO CONCEDE UP TO NOW IS TWO MONTHS.
IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE SOVIETS, HAVING RECOGNIZED
THE INEVITABILITY OF SOME COMMITTEES ARE NOT TALKING
ABOUT RESTRICTING THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEES IN
ORDER TO FORCE MOST OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE TO

BE TAKEN UP IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS. FINALLY, THIS IS
ALSO THE FIRST POSITIVE REFERENCE WE RECALL BY THE
SOVIETS TO ANY POST-BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP. PREVIOUSLY
THEY HAD BEEN TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE APPROACH.
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